A FULL

ANSWER

FOR

Mr. GEORGE BARCLA[illegible]

Minister of the Gospel,

TO A

Scurrilous Pamphlet Published against him, [illegible] Vindication of the Bishop of *Edinburgh* and t[illegible] other Administrators of the Money Collected for the Releif of the Distressed Episcop[illegible] Clergy in *SCOTLAND*.

WHEREBY

His Complaint, Exhibited against [illegible]em to the Lords of Se[illegible]on, is shewed Reasonable; a[illegible] the Malice, Folly, a[illegible] Falshood of the Vindicator are [illegible]de appear.

[illegible] 3: 20. *Every one that doth Evil, h[illegible] the Light, neither comet[illegible] Light, least his Deeds sho[illegible] Reproved.*

[illegible]burgh Printed by *John Moncur* [illegible] Printing House at t[illegible] of the Bull-Close. MDCCX[illegible]

A Full Answer for Mr. *George Barclay* Minister of the Gospel, To a Scurrilous Pamphlet Published against him, in Vindication of the Bishop of *Edinburgh*, &c.

THE Vindicator not being dispos'd to notice the hand of God, in the Sufferings of the Episcopal Clergy in *Scotland*, falls immediatly a Snarling at Rabbles, the Judicatories of the Kirk and of the State, some of which, he says, are now Abolished, as the Instruments of their Trouble: And then attacks the Author of the *Flying-Post*, for Publishing in his News, of the date *Feb:* 29. 17$\frac{11}{12}$. *A Representation of the Affair Pleaded by Mr.* George Barclay *Minister of the Gospel, against the Lord Bishop of* Edinburgh, *and the other Administrators of the Money Collected for the Relief of the Suffering Clergy.* Mr. *Barclay* owns the Representation, and his giving it to some of the Queens Judges at *Edinburgh*, and others he found himself concerned to Inform in the Case; but knew nothing of Putting it in the *Flying-Post*. The Vindicator himself may be better seen in that, than he, that he might have a fair occasion to shew his Talent, in Bantering the Truth, and Gratifying his Spleen in the Defamation of his Brother. Mr. *Barclay* then not being Privy to the Inserting it in the Publick News, leaves the Vindicator and the Author of these, to adjust their Differences about it, the *Rabbles*, the Malice and *Prosecutions of the Judicatories of the Kirk*, and of other *Judicatories*, whether Dead or Living.

My Design at the time, shall be to satisfie all, that are not compleatly Blinded by Prejudice and Partiality, that Mr. *Barclay* is very Unchristianly Treated by this Malicious Man in his Vindication, as well as Oppreſt by him and his Abetters in the Subject Complain'd of; for no other Reason, unless it were, that he used in his Meeting-House, to

 Pray

Pray always expresly for the *Queen*, and Behave himself Suitably under Her Majesty's Government; But mean while it being the Apostles Rule, *not to Render Railing for Railing*: I shall therefore Curb all Passion as much as possible in Answering this Vindicator; tho' the whole Strain of his Paper doth tend to provoke it, and justly deserves an Invective.

To come then to the Business, 'tis Observable, that the Author before he enter upon the Merit of the Cause, first gives us a Character of himself and Brethren Administrators, and then one of Mr. *Barclay*; As for the former, they are *Men of Unblemished Reputation*. Pity such good Men should need so many Apologies! And they may Remember they were once obliged to the same Mr. *Barclay anno* 1702, for clearing their Reputation in the present Case with the Bishops of *Ireland*, when there was a stop put to their Collections there, because of the Partiality complain'd of: He did Truely and Sincerely Declare in their Favours, that he used in his Meeting-House to Pray always (according to his Christian Duty) for our Sovereign Lady Queen ANNE, and that he used likeways to get a part of that Money; and that several other Ministers here used to Pray for the Queen; they would had him add, that these got of it also: But he told them they might Declare for themselves, for whether they got or not, he was not certain: But after that, he never had any thing of the Publick Money, save once, tho' considerable Sums were got upon the Credit of his Testimony, there being no other then obtain'd. But to return, their Reputation is but like that of others: However, Mr. *Barclay* Heartily wishes, that both they and he were better than they are, so their Labours here would bring more profit to others, and their own Reward should be greater hereafter.

Next, as for Mr. *Barclay's* Picture, 'tis Extreme ugly, and no wonder; for he says he did it *Unwillingly*, and all forc'd work is much of the same Nature with Compelled Prayers, never Pleasant or acceptable; but 'tis presumed the Vindicator gives not this Character, so much against his will, as it is really against the Truth. He calls him *an Unhappy Man*, and *his Family Miserable*, True, both he and his Family are Poor, there's Reason for it: He hath been outed of his Legal Maintenance ever since the Year 1688, in Regard he had a Living

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Predeceſſor, who by the Meaſures of the Revolution was Reponed to the Place, this is one Reaſon for his Poverty. Another is, he hath had him, and the Brethren of his Temper, Practiſing againſt him ever ſince Her Majeſty's Happy Acceſſion to the Throne, which hath been very uneaſy to him, and alſo Injurious; but mean time his Poverty hath not made him do an ill Thing to gain him Money; and is every Poor Man, when there are ſuch Reaſons for it, Miſerable? No, Mr. *Barclay* in his Poverty may have been as Happie, ſince his being Removed from his Living by a Sentence in Law, as ſome Brethren are in their Purchaſſes, ſince their Expulſion by Enraged Pariſhioners: *A Mans Life conſiſteth not in the Abundance of the good Things he Poſſeſſeth*, ſaith CHRIST, and what tho' this Vindicator either think or ſay the contrary?

Nay, but ſays he, *his Reputation is ſo far ſunk by his wilfull Miſcarriages, that he is deſervedly abandoned by all, both Clergy and Laity, which in all his Capacities he now feels very ſenſibly.*

As to this, Mr. *Barclay* is very ſenſible that he ſuffers; But 'tis rather by the Miſcarriages of this Vindicator and his Complices, than his own, if they were ever Witneſſes to any of his *wilfull Miſcarriages*, he allows Them to tell them. But if they take Impreſſions from Reports, they may be pleaſed to conſider, that a good Man may be belied, and that they themſelves are not ſo ſingularly happy, as not to have Enemies; So, that he aſſures them, they'l gain nothing that way.

As to his being abandoned by all, both Clergy and Laity. This if true, as it is not, were no great wonder; It being the Effect of their Importunities with them, theſe ſeveral years bygone. Men ſupported by *Penſions and Collections*, having Money to diſpoſe off, cannot but be ſuppoſed to have much greater Influence than he, not only, with them that either need or deſire Money, but even with others. But be as it will, Mr. *Barclay* hath neither Pique or Quarrel againſt any Man, nor did he ever ſolicite any of the Brethren to embrak in his Buſineſs, Tho' the Vindicator and his Aſſociats have moſt induſtriouſly uſed Means, ordinary and extraordinary, for gathering Parties to help up the Cry againſt him, it being only Company that can bear them out in an Ill Thing, give Credit to it, and Countenance to the Agents. For

being

being resolved to encounter and fight the Laws of GOD and Man. 'tis not to be admired, that they provide a good Backing, being sure to need it.

But whether it be, that this Vindicator is under the Sway of Malice, Pride or Covetousness, which are mighty Vices, and blind the Reason, or that he is naturally rash and inconsiderat, I shall not say: But sure I am in branching out Mr. *Barclays* Character, he falls on two Things, which as they are forriegn to his *Representation*: So they might have been better let alone.

These are first, his failing *in the Duty he owed to his Bishop*. And *2dly, his failing in Gratitude to his best and kindest Benefactors*. These are the wilfull *Miscarriages*, he particularly points at; And therefore, being put to it by several Passages in his Paper, they shall be as particularly answered.

First, It had been sufficient to have said, that Mr. *Baclay* had fail'd in Duty to a Bishop; For he owns himself to be of the Episcopal Perswasion as much as ever, or the late Constitution of Episcopacy in *Scotland* did require him to be. He professes all regard to the Godly Admonitions of any Bishop, and rekons it his great Misfortune to have any Debate, where one of that Character is concerned. No, but to make him the more odious, he hath fail'd in Duty *to his Bishop, his Diocesan* &c. And therefore, *he hath fail'd foully*.

For clearing off this Charge, 'tis only to be considered, That the Church Government with us, was declared by Law and Act of Parliament to depend upon the Kings Pleasure, and that He by his Prerogative might appoint what Form he pleased, and order and dispose of persons imployed in the same, as he thought fit. As is evident from 1 *Act 2d. Sess. 1 Parl. and from 1 Act 2d. Parl. of King Charles* II. Accordingly, the King at his Pleasure did exauctorat Arch-Bishops and Bishops, and that not only before, but also after the Explication given by the King and Council of the Test *anno* 1681. As is clear by the Instances of Dr. *Cairncross* Arch-Bishop of *Glasgow*, and of Dr. *Bruce* Bishop of *Dunkeld*, both which were turned out by King *Jam*. they not being sufficiently foreward in advanceing the Measures of his Reign; And that only a little before the Bishop of *Edinburgh* was promoted to that Dignity. Now, that the Relation was compleatly dissolved, in the Sense of the

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Church then, between these Bishops and their Clergy by the Kings Order, doth appear in this, That the Bishops in power, did at the Kings Command, instal others in the Dioceses of these that were only thus turned out, without ever once pretending, that they were not fully vacated. And it can never be better with them, that were turned out by Act of Parliament, than with them that were laid aside only by a Letter from Court. Seeing then as the Bishops Relation to the Diocess and Clergy of *Edinburgh* was established by one Act of Parliament, so 'tis dissolved by *posterior* Acts of Parliament since the Revolution, and the Ministers were left to shift for themselves; Therefore the Vindicator calls the Bishop improperly *his Diocesan*. Especially, considering that the Rules of the Primitive Church, cannot be urged in the present Case, there having been no care taken, for Settling the Episcopal Government also upon an Ecclesiastick Foot, by a Convocation or General Assembly; So that we have no Canons for determing our Differences, and sorting our Relations; Which hath indeed been fatal to all. And besides, the Ministers have not had the occasion of meeting with the Bishop in Presbytry or Synod, (as was usual here in *Scotland*) these twenty Years past, nor hath he all the time frequented any Worship more publick, than what he may have in his own Family, or heard his Ministers Preach. How then an Ordinary or Diocesan, from whom these Things are justly to be expected? Nevertheless, Mr. *Barclay* hath all Reverence for his Character, and never went so nicely to work, but paid him all the Respect, he could at any time claim. But finding himself at a loss by some Brethren about his Lordship, that in a manner have been his stated Adversaries, ever since Her Majesty's coming to the Crown; And seeing that by no means they could be brought to compound the matter, 'tis hard to blame him for speaking out, and seeking Redress in a Christian and Legal Way, when he is put to contend for his Life, and a numerous Family.

The other Thing Objected to Mr. *Barclay* is, *his failing in Gratitude to his best and kindest Benefactors*, meaning three or four of the Persons that Disposed on the Money of the Meeting-House he Served in before, *March* 1708. This he more largely insists on in the 14 *page* of his Vindication, and to what he says here and there, 'tis Answered at once. That the Vindicator quite forgets all *Measures*, lay's aside not only Con-

science but shame, and instead of Exposing *Mr. Barclay* does egregiously Expose himself; by a Narration of things, which as they are Extrinsick to the Affair in hand, so the Account he gives of them, is Conpleatly false, and is not only known to be so by the *Man* himself, but by a great many others in the Place. The true Account of these Matters being as follows.

About the time of the Intended Invasion, *March* 1708, There came a Letter from Court, requiring Magistrates to Prosecute such Ministers as Preach'd in their Bounds, and had not taken the Oaths, or did not pray always Expressly for the Queen. Whereupon about 14 Episcopal Ministers concerned in Meeting-Houses about *Edinburgh*, are Cited to appear before the Lord Provost and Town-Council, and upon the 13 of that Month were Sentenced. Their Meeting-Houses were ordered to be shut up, they were Inhibit Preaching within the City of *Edinburgh*, and Priviledges thereof, under the Pain of Imprisonment, and ordered to find Caution for that effect, betwixt and the 30th of the said Month. Mr. *Barclay* Remonstrated against the Sentence, as to his particular Case, and pleaded for Protection in the Exercise of the Ministry, seing he prayed always expressly for her Sacred Majesty, and had all along behaved himself as a Loyal and Dutiful Subject. But was told by one of the Magistrates, to hold himself satisfied for the time, and he should be Redrest in a short space. Accordingly the then Lord Provost about a *Month* thereafter did allow him to Preach, but with all told him peremptorly, that if he joyned again with any Inhibit Preaching, for their not Praying for the *Queen*, that he should be the very first in the place he would lay fast, *i. e.* Cast into Prison. This is the true state of his leaving the Meeting-House he formerly Served in, and of his taking another, and not the *Apprehension of making a better Harvest*, as the Vindicator falsely alledges.

As for these Friends Rewarding him, *even for the time he had not Served*, that's to say, for one Sunday: for being Sentenced toward the End of the *Quarter*, there was no other to run, on which he was oblidged to Serve. And is not this a *largess* to be put in Print, as an instance of his *best Benefactors*? whereas they should have paid him the Succeeding Vacant Quarter, seeing they had the Money of the House in their Hands to have done it.

The next thing he falls upon is, That the People of that House offered him 50 *lib. Sterling yearly to continue with them.* But I would gladly know if the Vindicator, who is so Confident in his Assertions, ever saw any Invitation or Call, by any Competent Number of that People, (as is usual in such Cases) expressing the Services they required of him, and Defining such an allowance for his Mantainance? If he or any of the Administrators did see it, Mr. *Barclay* declares he did never see or hear of it. True indeed, when they found him allowed to Preach, and about taking a Meeting-House, there was a Story raised to abstruct his design, That the People he had been formerly with, had agreed to settle upon him yearly, some said six, some Seven, others Eight or Nine Hundered Merks, if he would return unto them. And he Remembers three of that House came and spoke to him something to that purpose. But 'tis to be noticed, that when they came, they knew he could not accept of their offer, unless he resolved to go to Prison (as the Provost had Threatned) for Preaching with such as Praied not for the Queen. Moreover, he had Ground to believe (they never having kept Conditions with him) that none of their Offers would be performed: So he wish'd them well, and desired to be Excused from medling in such a matter, which was all that past.

About the Midle of *July* when Mr. *Barclay* did begin to Preach, *his best Friends and Benefactors* (as the Vindicator calls them) with their Associats, did mightily envy him that Liberty, seeing he would not be a Tool to them and their party, and go to Prison, and therefore studied by all means to divert the People from hearing him, by Clamouring of their great kindness to him; whereas it was really quite otherwise. Mr. *Barclay* therefore finding, that Calm *M*ethods would not bring them to Reason, found himself oblidged to cause cite the two Persons, that Received and gave out the Money of their Meeting-House, to appear before the Sherriffs of *Edinburgh*, and answer to the Libel given in at his Instance against them, Complaining they had wronged him in the Compass of six years in more than six Hundered Merks: and as it was thus Libelled, so every point of the Libel was made good against them. For in the first three years, he had not above 300 Merks Yearly, whereas (by their Oath) he should have had six hundered, (it coming in) as some others had received, and many of the

 People

People believed he had gotten so much before the raising of that Process. However all he got for Nine Hundered Merks for these first three years, was, The Defender did Depone he had Distroyed or burnt the Accompts of his Intromissions for these three Years, without producing any sufficient Document, of his having held Accompt with Ministers or People for the samen. As for the other three Years, where the Books were produced, the Sherriffs found him again wronged in these, in the matter of five Hundered Pounds *Scots*, and past their Decreet against the Defender for these years, to pay him that Sum, for making him equal with those that had done the like Services. Of all this Process the Administrators had an Accompt under Mr. *Barclay*'s own hand, which was afterwards Printed; so the Vindicator could not be Ignorant, that Mr. *Barclay* was wrong'd by these he calls *his best Friends and Benefactors*, in 1600 Merks. I do not doubt but the Man that writes the Vindication is Capable of any thing that's Villanous, the only happiness is, he hath not wit to Conceal it, for by his saying, *the Gentlemen gave him 20 lib. Sterling in Charity*, after such a Provocation, no Considering Man will believe Him. The Reason Mr. *Barclay* made no more of it was, his easiness; in Submitting the Business when he should not done it. The Vindicator may make what he can of these Benefactors, but it had been Mr. *Barclays* interest, never to have known them or their Beneficence.

What he adds more Relating to Mr. *Barclay's* Character, is scarce worth the noticing. He hath not *given up his Dwelling-House* (as he says) he is only Removed from it to another, as good and more Convenient for his Family. He did not propose to live by letting a part of his House, but only to dwell in a house that will Accomodat his Family, and pay the Rent, which if it do, the House is not to be Complained of. He knows very well none will Lodge with him that the Vindecator can hinder, but 'tis some Confort, that neither Honest or good Men are much under his Influence. But he hath *given up his Meeting-House*: So should the Vindicator give up his too, if his Labours have no better effect upon others than on himself. Mr. *Barclay* as a Minister of Religion, would gladly preach the Gospel of Peace, in Peace but being discouraged therein by the Bishop and these about him, and all the Collections can influence (while they might been better inployed) there is no Obliga-

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tion on him, to Waſt his Strength, and bring himſelf under Unneceſſary Expences, by keeping of a Meeting-Houſe.

HAVING fully Vindicated Mr. *Barclay*, from the Crimes Unjuſtly Charged on him, *of Rebellion to his Ordinary, and Ingratitude to his beſt Benefactors.* I'm now to conſider whether this Wordy, Dowghty Champion, be more happy in Defending his Clients againſt Mr. *Barclay's* Repreſentation, than in his giving Characters, where I ſhall follow his own Method, and ſhew.

1. That 'tis juſtly pleaded by *Mr. Barclay*, that he is wrong'd ſince *April* 1703, by the Adminiſtrators in One Hundred *lib. ſterl.* (they in the ſame Claſs having received ſo much) by being Denied his ſhare of the Collections, contrary to the Rules agreed to at a Meeting *Anno* 1700, and at other *Meetings*.

2. That he is wrong'd by them, contrary to theſe and the other Rules pleaded in the Caſe, for no other Reaſon, unleſs it were, that he uſed in his Meeting-Houſe, *to Pray always expreſsly for the Queen.*

3. I ſhall clear the Repreſentation of Pointing at the Biſhop of *Edinburgh*, in more than what is proper and Reaſonable.

Firſt, It is pleaded by Mr. *Barclay* that he is wrong'd as above ſaid, by being Expung'd the Publick Liſt, without asking him of his Condition, and therefore he hath Reaſon to complain, having been preſent at the Meeting, where this Rule (among ſeveral others, for preventing miſtakes and Complaints about Diſtributions) was Unanimouſly agreed to, as it had been at former Meetings. That none that was once Enrolled, ſhould be put out upon any pretence, before they were particularly heard upon the Head. No, ſays the Vindicator, *the Adminiſtrators never had ſuch a Rule, neither is it Reaſonable.* But Pray! Is not this Man beſides himſelf? He really in this inſtance makes the Adminiſtrators worſe than the *Old Covenanters*, and pleads that to be highly Reaſonable in them, which he had but juſt inſtantly Cenſured, in the Procedure of the others, againſt the Biſhops *Anno* 1683, viz. *To Condemn a Man without allowing him a Hearing.* 'Tis to no purpoſe that he alledges ſome Miniſters Live at a diſtance, for that was not Mr. *Barclay's* Caſe, but where it is the Caſe, Information may be had by Writing, and that favour is granted to others, as is evident by many inſtances in their Books.

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As for the Paper produc'd before the Judge, to which Mr. *Barclay* is a Subscriber, the occasion of it was briefly this. Sometime preceeding the Meeting in the year 1700, where Mr. *Barclay* was present, Dr. *Skene* had been Collector for the Suffering Clergy, the Bishops and some of the Administrators pretended that the Dr. came short in his Accompts, and Threatened to Pursue him at Law. But the Ministers that were the Persons wrong'd (if there was any wrong done) did at that Meeting freely pass the Dr. these Accompts, and desired no more of him, but that he would make known to the two Bishops, the Persons to whom he had given Money privately, which the Dr. promised to do, and they were to accept, so all were Friends: However when the Doctor waited on them, and gave them the Names of the Persons; they moreover required of him to make some Acknowledgment to the Administrators; the Dr. excused himself, and told he could not do it either in Honour or Conscience; so the difference is again renewed, and the Ministers are divided; some take part with the two Bishops, and others with the Dr. and his Collegue. But the Doctors Party being like to ruin the others Business, that occasioned this Paper, which was drawn up and handed about for Subscriptions, some Weeks after that Meeting; but should never been produc'd by them, being *Authentic* in nothing more, than to shew their own weakness, and how little Credit People gave to their Commission appointing Collectors, when not Attested by this Paper, shewing the Power to be given them by the Ministers; and therefore to obviate that Objection, the Collectors carried it about with them.

This was the true occasion of Subscribing this Paper, as is evident in this; that neither Dr. *Skene* or any of the Ministers that were in his Interest would Subscribe it, tho' Eight or Nine of them were present at the Meeting, when the particulars in it were Transacted and agreed to. Now seeing the Paper was only intended to give Credit to the Collectors in seeking of Money, there was no need of inserting in it the Rules agreed upon for giving it out, and making Distributions; any more than it was needfull, for Mr. *Barclay* to put all the Rules that are true in his *Representation*, because he put some of them in other Papers; one of which was given to the Administrators themselves, as well as to others, that they might if they pleas'd, prevent a more publick Hearing:

ing. But that there are other Rules than these, will appear by their Books, or by the Declarations of these then present *anno* 1700. And they may Remember that the Laird of *Marchiston* in particular, went lately out of a Meeting and left them, upon the same Head of their not observing the Rules. But not to insist on their being bounded, by Measures agreed to privately; I shall next consider how they are Circumscribed by the Rules of Righteousness, and of the word of God.

In the second place, I am to shew that Mr. *Barclay* is wrong'd (as above said) contrary to the Apostles Rule, for making Distribution *according as every one hath need*, and the Assurances given to the Bishops of *England*, and many in the Government, that they make no distinction between them that Pray Expressly, and them that do not.

The Vindicator acknowledges this to be a *heavy Charge, and if true, a very Provoking Offence, an Iniquity to be Punished by the Judge.* In this then we both agree, the difference only is, That the Vindicator says, there is no just Ground for such a Complaint; Mr. *Barclay* says there is, and that it will appear by their Books and Lists of Distribution. I shall therefore for seting this Affair in its proper Light, first consider what he here offers for Vindication of his Friends, and then make it appear that there is sufficient Ground for Mr. *Barclay's* Complaint. As for the Paper Printed at *London anno* 1711, Entituled, *The Case of the Collections in* England, *for the Distressed Episcopal Clergy in* Scotland. I did never see it, nor do I think I am at any great loss thereby, being confident it is only such a Demonstration of the Equitable Disposal of these Charities as this Vindication: And if there were nothing else to overthrow the Credit of that Account, this is sufficient, viz. That of all the Ministers that own Her Majesty's Government, and Subscribed Dr. *Scots* Commission when he went up with their Address, in the beginning of the year 1703, tho' to this day he blazes their Names through *England* in making Collections; yet not so much as one of them ever had a vote, in Disposing one Sixpence of the Money sent by him. If they get any thing of that, 'tis good, if they get none, they must not complain, for that were to be *Rebellious to the Ordinary, and Libel the Administrators.*

The first thing he brings against Mr. *Barclay's* Representation is, That if it were true, *then 'tis to be Presum'd that the Administrators*

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would have been careful to have Supplied some Eminent Presbyters of this Church, who are Reputed not to have owned the Government : All very true, they supplied all such whether Eminent or not, that ever applyed unto them, and I never heard of their Rejecting the desire of any of these that Craved to be Enrolled. But for him to plead that Men may or should be considered by Precept or otherwise, that will not allow their Names to be made as Publick as others; as it is against the Rules of Distribution that have been agreed to, so 'tis against Reason and common Sense; and therefore hath been frequently complain'd of, as a practice tending only to Vanity and Lying.

The next thing he brings to vindicat the Administrators of Partiality to them that pray for the Queen, is, *that they have some in their Lists of Distribution, that have taken the Oath of Alledgance and Assurance*. He says Instances of such might be given in the late Reign, but I very much doubt of it: Such having been then avouedly kept out, as did appear by their Books, when inspected by the Privy Council. I never heard that Mr. *Lockhart* or Mr. *Waterston* were considered by them; And therefore I crave farther Evidence by their Books, before I believe it. But if either or both of them should happen to be found there, may there not be a particular Reason for it? Mr. *Abercrombie* (who will be sure to have a Handling where Money is a going) used to serve his Ends, by these Brethren one way, and possibly he might serve them another. Sometimes the Government did then consider a suffering Minister, that had taken the Oaths, by granting him a Vacant Stipend, where it was of the Kings Gift. Mr. *Abercrombie* was mighty diligent in finding out such Vacancies; But seeing he himself could have no direct Access to them, his way was to agree with some Minister that was capable of the Favour, and by the Promise of two or three Hundred *Merks*, to obtain Liberty from him of using his Name, in purchasing the Grant, and his Right to it when precured. The Matter being thus concerted, Mr. *Abercrombie* is set a-work among the Lords of Council or Thesaury, or such as could influence Them; Pleads hard upon the account of the Mans Poverty, numerous Family, and Good Affection to the Government: So a Stipend of Ten or Twelve Hundred *Merks* is granted to supply Him. But behold! When the Money is made effectual, the poor complying Minister got

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possibly three Hundred *Merks*, Mr. *Abercrombie* by Pre-contract had secured all the rest for Himself. This is no forged Story but true Matter of Fact; For thus he dealt with one of those Brethren, in procuring a Stipend near to the Town of *Perth*. And there was this Circumstance in the Affair, that makes it the more memorable; That Mr. *Abercrombie* agreed with Him, when a third Brother pretended a Promise of the Benefit of his Qualifications; And for that Mr. *Abercrombie* was obliged to take off the Complainant with 5 *lib. sterl.* that He might not make such a base Business known to the Collector of Vacant Stipends, and so hazarded the whole Grant. Now to be sure Mr. *Abercrombie*, who hath been concerned in several Things of this Nature, would not be wanting to serve such (if possible) about the Collections, by whom he was so well served on his Occasions.

Mr. *Heriot* was recommended by the People of the place, when they were collecting among Them, and was sometimes a Sharer in the Charity, sometimes not; He is a very honest Minister, but denys all to be true the Vindicator says of Him. Mr. *Peacock* may be qualified to the Government, yet 'tis undenyable he gave over praying for the Queen for several Years together, that he might be of a piece with his Collegues, so his Case is different from Mr. *Barclay's*, who praid always expresly. I wonder how he here inserts Mr. *Mathers*, who was in a manner avowedly expunged for his owning the Government; And the others, He there mentions, that were known to own the Government, were but lately received, when their Partiality was loudly talked off.

The last thing the Vindicator here insists on, is a Paper signed *by the complying Clergy at Edinburgh*, as he calls them. He glories in this as a finishing Stroke, *that will silence Mr. Barclay for ever, in saying he was neglected for praying always for the Queen.* But Mr. *Barclay* is not so soon silenced; For the Ministers there, that praid always expresly do not subscribe it. And that this Paper is impertinently urged here by the Vindicator, doth appear by these two Things. First, in that the Persons subscribing it, did not always (yea most of them were not heard once) pray expresly for Her Sacred Majesty; Nor in the next Place, were they all class'd in the List of Distribution upon their first Application. Mr. *Peacock* applyed some years before

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he was received. And Mr. *Henderson* hath complain'd frequently that he was not Enrolled upon his first Desire, tho' he had no Right to it, not being a suffering Minister, but a single Man lately put in Orders. It were easy to be particular about their Subscriptions, but out of Tenderness to the Ministerial Character I forbear; and besides 'tis not worth the while. Let them only remember to behave themselves under the Government, suitable to the Character the Vindicator honours them with, of being *the complying Clergy*, and Mr. *Barclay* freely pardons both Them and the Widows for their Declarations. They'l do Him no Harme (being wide from the purpose) whereas to have deny'd the Importunities of These, whose Cause needs such Shifts to support it, might have tended to their prejudice. To conclude this Point, 'tis peremptorily denyed that the half, or near to the sixth Part of those that share in the Charity, have given such Proof of their Affection to the Government as Mr. *Barclay*, tho' he heartily wishes the number of such were equal to, or rather above, what 'tis pretended to be.

Having followed the Vindicator, through his several Suppositions, and his Confident Assertions in favours of his Friends, and shewed the Insufficiency of them. I am now more Explicitely to lay before you some particulars relating to this Case, by which it will appear, that Mr. *Barclay's* Complaint, of being so neglected, for praying for the Queen, is not Groundless,

First then, 'tis plain and Evident that the Clergy on this Administration, have always Exprest a greater concern for them that did not, than for them that did own the Government. If a Complying Minister intended to serve in the Church of *England*, he must go off without any Token of their Care or Favour; but if one intended thither, that was not to accept of an Office in that Church, he might have Recomendations, and what other Assistences they could give. It was Observable, that none were put in Orders, that Professedly own'd the Government, and to this day 'tis to be noticed, that such as they know to be Enclin'd that way, or to Serve in the Land of Compliance, must commonly go Northward to be ordain'd.

'Tis known they were industrious upon the Queens Accession to the Throne to keep Ministers from Praying Expresly. To this purpose a Brother went about to Advertise such, as were to Preach next Sunday

day, not to be Expreſs. Whereupon ſome would not be Diverted, others were, and one prayed for the *Ruler*, another for the *Sovereign*, and a third for *Majeſty*, *&c.*

But not to inſiſt or go farther Back, may they not Remember, that they made an Obſervable Diſtinction in *October* laſt? There was a Meeting called at the Biſhop of *Edinburgh*'s Lodging, of ſuch Miniſters as had Meeting-Houſes in Town, for concerting Meaſures about Adminiſtring the Sacrament of the Lords Supper, upon ſome particular Lords day about the end of that Month, as at *Eaſter*. There was at leaſt ſome one of every Meeting-Houſe bidden to it. Only there were three Miniſters in the place that had Meeting-Houſes, and always praid for the *Queen*, of which Mr. *Barclay* was one. Not one of them were Acquainted therewith. So that their very Hearers obſerved the Diſtinction they then made. Now ſeeing it hath been thus with them in other Caſes, it may be Rationally Inferred, that they have not been ſo ſelf-Deny'd in this Inſtance of the Diſtributions, but that they have made a Diſtinction there alſo.

But more particularly that they have done ſo, doth clearly appear in this, That others as well as he were upon the ſame head of owning her Majeſty's Government expreſly, thus treated by them. And here I ſhall not run over the Country for Inſtances, but only Name ſome then Reſiding at *Edinburgh*. Such as Dr. *Skène*, Mr. *Langlands*, Mr. *Hardy*, Mr. *Mathers*, Mr. *Ogilvie*, Mr. *Gellie*. Theſe at the time they did fall to work with them, by denying them a ſhare of that Money, and treating them otherwiſe Scurvily, could not be fairly Convict of any other fault.

The two firſt were worthy diſcrete Men, and well allied among the Gentry: They had no Meeting-Houſe, but had been very Active in Promoting the Addreſs, made by the Miniſters unto the *Queen*, upon her Acceſſion to the Crown. This the Primat, the Biſhop of *Edinburgh*, and the Brethren on the Adminiſtration, did highly reſent. As is clear by Mr. *Abercrmoby*'s Letter to his Brother Mr. *Gaddarer* in the North; which falling in wrong hands, was Publiſhed in a Pamphlet next Summer at *Edinburgh*, wherein he writs to this purpoſe. *This Project* (meaning the Addreſs) *was favoured by no Biſhop, except the Arch-*

 Biſhop

Bishop of Glasgow. And after that Taunted Dr. *Skene* and the other Dr. that went along with him, with that of the Poet.

Si pranderet Olus patienter, Regibus uti
Nollet *Arristippus* —

And truely if the Subscribers had any design by that Application to fill their Bellys, the Reverend Administrators were generally careful, to whet the appetite of such, as behaved themselves agreeable to that modest Expression of their Duty, for her Majesty's Bounty. But besides that they withheld from some the part due to them of that Subsistence designed for suffering Brethren, their Aspersing them otherwise, was to them really more grievous.

These two after along and Tedious Sickness died, if they gave any thing to the Dr. in his Sickness, or toward the Expences of his Funerals I know not; but I heard they sent 3 lib. Sterl. to help to bury the other, which the Gentlemen his Friends returned them very thankfully, to prevent their Blazing that abroad, as an instance of their kindness to him when Dead, who was so little oblidged to them when living. Mr. *Hardie* Died without Coal or Candle in his House, but what he had from the Charity of the Neighbourhood. Mr. *Mathers* was very ill used; could Undertake nothing wherein he was not Discouraged by them, till at length he and a Daughter Contracted Sickness, of which both died, much about one Time. Mr. *Ogilvie* died also, after his Circumstances had put him upon some Unfrugal Bargains, and Mr. *Gelly* was oblidged to go to *England*, with his Motherless Children.

By these Instances (passing others that might be easily added) it plainly appears that Mr. *Barclay's* Case hath not been singular, and that he was so Treated, rather for owning the Government, than for his being sufficiently provided for by a Meeting-House, and yet this will be rendered more Evident by Considering these things.

First, That many that have Meeting-Houses both in *Edinburgh* and in the Country, were in the Publick List, and do, or did share of that Money, until such time as they were asked about their Condition, and did consent that their Names should be put out of their Rolls, seing they could live without such Supplies. Now pray, why was not that Justice done to Mr. *Barclay*, unless it were that he used to Pray expressly?

And then in the next place, others that had greater Stocks of real Mony, than all he got for Preaching Eight Years in the Meeting-House he

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Served in, and their other Profits also, were kept in the List; some of them unto the day of their Death, and none of them were excluded without their Consent, tho' their Families were less Numirous. Now this I think is as great a Demonstration of the Partiality of these Mannagers to Mr. *Barclay* as the Affair is capable of. To Conclude this head, they had no power to put out, or keep out; any one that was a Suffering Minister but by his consent, nor did they ever turn out any so, but some that differed from them in point of Government. But in the Interim 'tis to be Noticed, That Mr. *Barclay* does not say that they used all that prayed for the Queen thus, yea, he says Expresly; *They thought it not fit that all of them should be out together.*

The third thing proposed, was to clear the Representation, of pointing at the Bishop of *Edinburgh* in more than what is proper, and Reasonable. As for the Diocesan part of the Charge, 'tis fully Discust already, and what is here added shall be considered.

The Vindicator Challenges Mr. *Barclay for Naming the Bishop alone.* To this 'tis Answered, that seing they require the Bishop to be named alone in the writtenPetitions they exact, it should not be quarreled in a Complaint that is made. But if the Vindicator be not satisfied with this, then he may name Mr. *John Cameron*, Mr. *Thomas Paterson*, Mr. *William Abercromby* with the Bishop, these having been his chief Advisers and Abetters in this Affair, as in others of the same kind.

In that he says, he is wrong'd *by the Bishop and whom he is pleased to call to meet with him.* Pray by whom else is the Injury done, if there be any done him at all? If the Bishop at one Meeting did acquaint such as are present with the day of their next Meeting, it might indeed seem some what unfair to word it thus. But this is not their way of doing Business; for their way in the present Case (in so far as I could ever understand it) is this. The Bishop about the End of the Quarter uses to call some of the Brethren together, to project what is to be done, to fix a day for doing it, and calling some Lay-Men to be witnesses to what they do. And what is this but calling whom the Bishop pleases?

So this being true Matter of Fact, and not *an instance of Resentment*; the Vindicator is Injurious in Imputing it to the bad Success, Mr. *Barclay's* Letter had with the Bishop and his Friends in *October* 1703, but seing he mentions this Letter, I shall give a breif Account of it. Mr. Bar-

clay being Voted out in *April* 1763. upon pretence that he was provided for by a Meeting-house: Whereas there was no particular Sum setled upon him, for his maintainance; nor were the Hearers under any Obligation to continue him. Yet this little and uncertain Provision was made a Colour for his Exclusion. But this was nothing but what might been expected from them, who before were injurious to *Mr. Mathers* Mr. *Hardy* and others upon the same pretence, tho the Profits of their Meeting-Houses could do little more than defray the necessary Expenses of their meetings.

Mr. *Barclay* finding himself thus used, and otherwise abused by them, writes a Letter to the Bishop of *Edinburgh*, which was neither *Saucy or Impertinent*, as the Vindicator calls it; For by that he only lays open the Condition of his Family, humbly Expostulates why he might not been heard about his Circumstances, before they had been voted to be far otherwise than really they were, and intreats him to Redress the loss he had sustain'd at the two last occasions: The thing in this Letter that most offended the Bishop and his Council was, his Writing, *That he had heard of Concerting Measures for bearing down and Discourageing some Men, and for Encourageing others.* Now this was no groundless Suspicion, for he had been told so much by one who was at their meetings, and Privy to their Designs, and knew how it was Projected to practise against those that Pray'd for the Queen, to oblige them either to leave the Place, or make them uneasy in it, by Enticeing their Hearers to desert their Ministry, and Straitning them about the Collections: In Pursuance whereof, two of Mr. *Barclay's* Collegues had been compleatly voted out of that Meeting-House, the Meeting-Houses of others were broken, other Brethren were brought to Face about at Pleasure; and they that Pray'd for K. *William*, did not Pray for our Sovereign Lady Queen ANNE, so these were safe, being fit to serve a Turn. But there being no other way then, to get effectually at Mr. *Barclay*, but by the Collections, they intirely voted him out of these. This of the Letter, which no indifferent Person (considering the occasion) will Condemn.

As for the *Private Charities put in the Bishops Hands, whereof he made Mr. Barclay a Sharer, notwithstanding his Provoking Letter*, these in whole amounted to Eight *lib. sterl.* received on three several occasions in the space of 9 years, and were design'd by the Donors for parti

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cular Persons; So that Mr. *Barclay* could not been neglected, without an evident Breach of Trust: For the first three *lib.* were a part of an Hundered *lib.* sent by an English Noble-Man, to be divided among 30 of the most Indigent Ministers, whereof none was to get above 5 *libs.* none under three: True they made some change in the Destination, and allowed some 6 *libs*; but then Mr. *Barclay* did not receive these 3 *libs.* by the Bishops Order, but by the Appointment of a Meeting in the beginning of *May* 1704, as is clear from their Books. As for the next three *libs*, these were sent to him by the Bishop when in Prison *October* 1708, but then 'tis to be noticed, that the Receipt required of him runs thus, *Received from the Bishop of* Edinburgh 3 libs. sterl. *as a part of the Money sent by his Grace the Arch-bishop of* York, *toward the Support of such Ministers as are Incarcerat.* And the other two *libs.* he received from the Bishop himself upon his Liberation, were sent (as he said) upon the former Account by a Person in *London.* By this 'tis clear that these 8 *libs.* he received were intended for particular Persons in such Exigencies, and Mr. *Barclay* Heartily wishes, his Claim to them had not been so good, as it was on these occasions.

The *Bishop* (says the Vindicator) *put these Receipts in the hands of some Persons*, to shew his Care of, and Bounty to the Ministers that own'd the Queens Government, by Mr. *Barclays* receiving from Him 8 *lib*, in the Compass of so many Years; But Mr. *Barclay* had been much more obliged to the Bishop and Administrators, if they had given Him, as others in that Time had received, whose Circumstances were better, and their Families not so numerous, which was no less than Sixteen Hundred *Merks*: and then he should allow'd Them to tell it to whom they pleased. But the Knack in propaling these Receipts lay in this; that they were handed about and discoursed of, to impose on People, and make them believe, that Mr. *Barclay* wanted Nothing that others had gotten. For to this Day 'tis positively asserted by Mr. *Barclay*, let all of them Dispove it if they can, That they are not able to find the Man or Woman to whom he ever denied his receiving these 8 *libs*: And seing it was so, there was no Need of proving what on all Occasions was acknowledged, and had never been denied by Him. But indeed when he found that by a crafty Management of these two or three Receipts, the Agents made some believe, that 8 *libs* were more than 80 *libs*; He thought this was to make more of the Bishops

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Kindness than it was truely worth; And therefore said to one of the Collectors, That if he had known they would have made such a disingenuous Representation about These, he would rather chosen to have wanted them altogether.

As to what he say's *of the private Charities put in the Bishops Hands, and intrusted to his Distribution, whereof he hath made some complying Ministers Sharers.* 'Tis answered, that these Favours being private, little can be said of them, untill the Books and Papers relating to this Administration are considered. If of late some they represent under the Notion of Compliers, have been considered by Him and his Council, being necessitat upon Occasion to use their Names, in order to pursue some Ends, and answer an Exigence. 'Tis observable, that these have truckled sadly under Them for their Friendship: As may be made appear, if they think fit to enter upon the Retail of these Matters. I have now gone through the three Particulars proposed, and that which confirms all is, That they did not Repone Him to his Class in their Rolls, when his Provision by the Meeting-House failed, as they knew it did in *March* 1708. If they had Repon'd Him then, it might have been thought there was some Sincerity in their former Pretence, but their not doing This, shewed that to be altogether frivolous.

But says the Vindicator, *all the while He made no Application to the Administrators.* This is so far from being true, that he used all proper Expedients, from the Time he was excluded into the raising of the Process, for obtaining some Redress at least, in a friendly Manner. And for that End frequently applyed unto Them, by Word and Writing, by going to their Meetings, and imploying others to interceed in his Behalf. And tho' the Matter was frequently tabled before Them, as particularly once by the Arch-Bishop of *Glasgow*, who Reported to the Rest, That Mr. *Barclays* Allowance was but small by the Meeting-House: Seing he had such a numerous Family of 7 or 8 Young Children, tho' it might be sufficient for his Collegue that was a single Man. And after that, the Affair was Tabled by another upon his being discharged that Meeting-House, but all without any Success; Tho' all the Time many others that were manifestly in better Circumstances were considered by Them.

But that Mr. *Barclay* hath hitherto been denied his Share of the Publick Money, is not the only Wrong that is done Him. He hath been

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otherways more injured by Them and their Abetters, by their Idle and False Clatters. As that he was Uncanonical, Undutifull, Schismatical, none should hear Him, or preach for Him. Why all this? Only for speaking out his Mind plainly, and saying GOD Bless the Queen, and living suitably; No other Irregularity hath been objected to Him. He hath been charged with Clamouring against the Administrators to the prejudice of the Fund, but for his own Profit; Whereas in Truth he was too modest. For untill the intending of this Process he scarcely remembers to have written or spoken to any on the Subject, but such as particularly enquired Him about it, and all that Time they'l hardly get one that denied Them Charity, upon pretence they had given it unto Him. They raised a Story of his being supplied by the Bishops of *England* and *Ireland*, when to this Day he never had a Two Pence that way. Nay, so gross were some as to say, he got of the Fund and denied it, but the contrary now doth evidently appear. And in fine, he could attempt Nothing for procuring any Thing toward the Maintenance of his Family, wherein he was not always opposed by their Odious and Malicious Calumnies, even tho' it interfered with none of their Business.

Mr. *Barclay* was not wanting under this Treatment, as he had Opportunity to apply to several of the Mannagers to Redress these Injuries; but finding most of them always Inflexible, and observing how others had been driven upon irregular Practices, and Ruin'd by such Measures; he went to the Bishop and Complain'd of the Usage, and told him that his Circumstances could no longer bear it, nor could he Answer either to God or his Family to be any more Silent, if these Evils were not Redrest. Therefore Intreated his Lordship would be pleased to Report to their Meeting, how he had been neglected for so many years, and assur'd him they should find him ready to comply with any Reasonable Overture for ending the Matter. This the Bishop several times refused to do, and told he must Petition them in Writing. Mr. *Barclay* excused himself, seing the affair had been frequently before them, and that it was not usual to require Written Petitions of such as had been once Enrolled, and their Circumstances fully known, and that in such a Petition he must plead for all, and Narrate the Matter of Fact, which might possibly displease some of them: So he hoped he would not exact that of him, but grant him the favour he desired. But the Bishop was Peremptory, that they would do nothing without a Petition, which

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in effect was much the same, as if he had said, *he needed not expect any good of them.*

Nevertheless, Mr. *Barclay* (tho' always Represented by them as a Willfull Man) had Patience to wait their next Meeting, thinking the Bishop, or the Brother Administrator that happened to be with him, might then Represent the Business to the rest, tho' neither of them promised so much. But there being nothing of this done, he draws up a Petition, humbly Representing the Affair, and Supplicating them to consider him, as they had done others; gave it in to their Clerk, delivered a Double thereof to the Bishop himself, and Intreated him to put an End to it, either by the Petition, or without it. And seeing the Laird of *Marchiston* was said to bear a great Stroke with them, he likewise gave him another Double, Requesting his Favour, with such ample Professions, both of Respect & Gratitude, that he was stopt by him. And in Regard he fell upon him for leaving the Meeting-House, he to satisfie him in this also, sent him afterward a true Account of all that Business under his own Hand: which things as a Gentleman 'tis hoped he will not deny.

In a word, Mr. *Barclay* used all probable means to get himself Righted either in whole or in part, and to have the difference removed, and waited patiently to the End of the Quarter, expecting their Answer. Whereas if the Bishop had pleased he might have called more of them together, upon his receiving the Petition he required, and Voted Mr. *Barclay* in, than did meet at his first voting out, but this was not what was intended. For when they met, *They found his Petition a Libel full of Untruths, Threatnings, and Petitory of what was unreasonable to be granted*, and therefore did Reject it. But seing they alleged *Untruths*, why did they not prove them such or at least point at them, before they pronunced them to be so? However they'l never be able to prove any *Falshoods* in that Petition, nor in this Paper which Runs in a much higher strain. There may possibly be mistakes as to some Circumstances, which may happen through want of due Information in Matters of Fact. But the main Things asserted both in that & this are true, for tho' it be invidious to insert Names on all occasions in a Publick Paper, yet Mr. *Barclay* is ready to confirm all that's said by instances, or Illustrat it by Examples.

Next they found *Threatnings*, and after this they may find what

they

they please, for none besides themselves will ever find *Threatnings* in that Petition. As for his *Petitioning for what was Unreasonable to be granted.* The Petition was, That they would be pleased to look over their Books, and give him as others had received, and Repone him to his Class for the future. Now seing these others, some of them were single Men, others had no Charge of Children, others had considerable Stocks of Money, some had more profit by Meeting-Houses than he, others had no Right to it at all, and severals complained of, for Marrying Persons Irregularly without consent of Parents, to the prejudice of the Fund. Now, I say, seing such were all the time considered by them, 'tis left to GOD and the World to Judge, whether he in seeking, or they in denying him, *as these others had received*, were most Unreasonable, or whether their practice, or his desire be most favoured by the Apostles Rule, commanding Distribution to be made, *as every on hath Need*, or by any other Rule that can be pleaded in the Case.

But notwithstanding such shifts and Delays, which are ever incongruous, and sometimes *Cruel and Unchristian*, in Distributing of Charity; Mr. *Barclay* did not finally give up with them. Wherefore, but passing their next Meeting, it being a little only before Easter, he endeavoured by an other Paper, to clear himself with them of the Aspersions cast on him, by their above written Answer to his Petition: Intreated them to reconsider it, and to end the Matter by granting him some Reasonable Redress. But they never offering one six pence, tho' applying to them for several years; and at that Meeting making a sham delay for another Quarter, he resolved not to medle any more with them that way, but to bring the thing before an Indifferent Judge. Yet even in this Mr. *Barclay* was not Rash, he sent *the very worthy Presbyter to the Bishop*, the Vindicator points at in the 13 th *Page* of his Vindication, and by him offered to Compound the Matter, upon such Terms as he seem'd to be pleased with, to prevent 'tis going any further, but to no purpose.

He sent them a Copy of his Representation, containing the Grounds he was to plead on, and spoke to several Persons, and some of them of the best Note too, to Interpose for Accommodating the Affair; he always making Abatement, but the Bishop and the rest not proffering him a two pence. The Laieks in the mean time knowing the temper of the Clergy, commonly absented themselves, when the Affair came under Consideration.

At length Mr. *Barclay* finding his mistake in waiting so long upon

Men that were Irreconcilable, and aimed at nothing less, than the Ruin of his Family; and Remembering their Dealing with others; went to consult the Queens Advocat how to put an End to the Business in Law. My Lord Advocat easily understood he was wrong'd, and that he would get a hearing, it being in a matter of Trust; but was rather for taking it away privately, than bringing it to Publick before a Judge. And on that head he spoke truely as discreetly, both with Respect to them and him; as any other had done or could do. He offered to write to the Bishop to take some Course with it, but Mr. *Barclay* told him that would only occasion a Delay: for Considering the Methods he had formerly used, he could not expect, it would have any better Effect. My Lord insisted, thinking they would regard his Writing, whereupon Mr. *Barclay* craved him pardon, in that he seem'd to neglect his Friendly Proposal, and promised his Letter should be carefully Delivered, and wish'd he might be more Succesful with them, than several others had been, who had Pursued the same overture. Acccordingly the Letter was Delivered, and by it any might perceive the sincerity of his Intension, to have the matter Compounded. But the Bishops Answer to him was in a quite different strain. Libelled Mr. *Barclay* as a Stiff and wilful Man only for seeking as others had received, whereas they never offered him any thing: Desired he would Petition them, in such a Form as might justifie their former Actions against him for eight Years together. But he told the Advocat he could not approve such dealing either with Respect to himself, or any other in his Condition. Besides they had it under his hand that he would not Petition them any more, not knowing how to Address himself unto them otherwise than he had already done. But if they pleased to send any of their Number to Commune on the Business before his Lordship, for removing the difference, he assured him, they should find him as Reasonable and easie as could be desired. But tho' seven or Eight weeks Intervened, betwixt and the calling the Affair before the Lords of Council and Session, there was not the least Motion made to that Purpose by any of them.

When the Affair is called at Law, the Lord Ordinary proposed to hear the parties privatly, That the Business might be the more speedily ended, and with the less Noise. Mr. *Barclay* agreed to it, but the Defenders did not. So in Course of Law, there was a day Assigned them for production of *the Rolls, Rules Books and writes relative to the said Distribution.* But instead of doing this (which is the only proper way whereby to Vindicat themselves) they contended most earnestly

against

against Exhibition of these, gave in a first Representation to the Lord Ordinary, and after that a Petition to the whole Lords, Craving the Sentence might be altered: These only occasioned Delays; for after both were seen and Answered, they were Rejected; and they ordered by all the Lords to produce their *Rolls, Books, &c. upon Oath.* Accordingly most of them are produc'd; but one of the Persons Cited going off, and the others not getting his Papers; This and their other Triffling Arts have put off the Business to the first of *November* next: Whereas if they had been as ready with their Vindication, by the Retail of their Trust, as Mr. *Barclay* was to receive it, the matter might not only been Heard and Decided this Summer, (as the Vindicator promisses) but even before it was Inserted in the Publick News.

The Vindicators last Charge is, That he Taxes Mr. *Barclay* as Criminal, in that *he Summoned his Bishop, and such of the Administrators as he thought fit.* The Vindicator hath been careful all along to provide Mr. *Barclay* with a Bishop, and may almost at the same Rate provide *Scotland* with a Chancellour, and fill up the Vacancy among the Lords of Session, with them that Enjoyed these Places in the Year 1688. But because the Mans Cry is so Tragical upon the Head, it may be presum'd he hath something more than Ordinary to say unto it: If therefore the Vindicator, or any other that have more of the Fear of God, and less of Humour and Passion, than he seems to have, will in the Spirit of Meekness, offer Precedent or Parallel, that will Justifie his many Challenges about the *Ordinary* and *Diocesan*, Mr. *Barclay* will own himself to be instructed by him.

In a word, he hath all due Deferrence for the Bishop, but having had so long Patience, and been so averse from any Legal Pursuit; 'tis Unreasonable to Quarrel him (when oblig'd by meer Necessity) for seeking Redress by these Judges, that the Bishop and all of them applie unto upon occasion for Justice, and sometimes one of them against another. The Bishop pleaded his Right to Mr. *Hendersons* Legacy, before the same Judicatory, and Mr. *Abercromby* and Mr. *Millar*, both Administrators, contended most Valiantly about a small matter, before a Civil Court: And Mr. *Cameron* went to Law with the Arch-Bishop of *Glasgow*, properly his Bishop, *anno* 1680. Why then should it be Objected to Mr. *Barclay* as a Crime, to use the same means to have himself Righted, when wrong'd in a Trust, they received from him and other Suffering Ministers (as is clear by the Paper produced by themselves) in 100 *l. sterl.* or thereby, according to the share due to those in his Class, since *January* 1703.

Now they raise Clamour against Mr. *Barclay*, because (as they pretend) some Persons withhold their Bounty from the Fund, upon pretence that it is not duely apply'd. What may be of this I know not; but I'm sure he hath too long born with them to his own prejudice, meerly upon the Head, lest Indigent Persons that have been partly supply'd by it, should suffer by a publick Complaint. If they had pleas'd, his Business with them might been soon over.

THEREFORE if the Fund run lower, it is occasioned by themselves, in that they contended so Earnestly against Exhibition of their *Books*, &c. Which can only shew their Mannagement to have been Candid, Impartial and Regular, and clear them of all Imputations. It may discurage even the *well-dispos'd* and *Charitable* in giving Money to them, that pretend to be above all Rules, to have an Arbitrary and Unlimited Power, in disposing these Collections made for the Suffering Clergy; and to an Unaccountable Administration. These are thing's no Trustee's besides them ever pretended to. But then 'tis very hard to load Mr. *Barclay* with the Consequences of their own Absurdities: Especially, considering he could neither have his share of these Collections in Peace, nor could he and some others, Live quietly by them without it.

To Conclude, I have followed the Vindicator, with all possible Decency, through the several Stages of his Imaginary Conquests; And after all, Mr. *Barclay's* Representation stands as before, and is in as Modest and Discreet Terms, as the Business can possibly be conceived in and exprest: And the Cognizance of the Truth thereof is referred to the Judge. But any Impartial Person, that is but the least seen in this Matter, may easily discern the Vindication to be Nothing, but a Heap of False, Malicious, Ranting and Railing Stuff; The Name of GOD not being in it, from the one End to the other. But seing the Author hath so little minded the GOD of Truth, or Chair of Verity, while imployed about this Work: I heartily wish (for his Happiness, and the Ease and Quiet of others) that he may never hereafter so much as seem, in pursuing his Measures, to take Example of Him, who, to gain his vain glorious and selfish Ends, made a mighty Noise and Rattle with Religious Pretences, when the Secret and more serious Prayer of his Heart was

Da mihi fallere, da justum sanctumque videri:
Noctem peccatis & fraudibus objice nubem.

FINIS.